



**Rejection Under 35 USC §103**

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,507,660 to Wirtz et al. (“Wirtz”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,566 to Mine et al. (“Mine”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

However, for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2, thus rendering the rejection moot with respect to claims 1 and 2. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Wirtz and Mine in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,856 to Hirabayashi et al. (“Hirabayashi”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

However, for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 19, thus rendering the rejection moot with respect to claim 19. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended all remaining claims to depend from claim 6, 8, or 22, each of which are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-5, 7, 10-14, and 32-33 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 6. Claim 9 depends from allowable claim 8. Claims 20-21, 23-31, and 34-35 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 22. Accordingly, Applicants submit that dependent claims 3-5, 7, 9, 10-18, 20-21, and 23-35 are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective allowable base claim.

**CONCLUSION**

Each and every point raised in the Final Office Action dated July 31, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 3-18 and 20-35 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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